

HOUSE RESOLUTION 194

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ruby Jackson Payne on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize, particularly on the occasion of their retirement, those outstanding teachers and educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding individual is Ruby Jackson Payne who, having served with distinction, will soon begin a much deserved retirement from Hanley Elementary School – "The University," which she has served as principal; and

WHEREAS, in her role as principal of Hanley Elementary School, Mrs. Payne has helped countless inner-city students develop their talents and academic abilities by initiating numerous activities designed to enhance their educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Mrs. Payne graduated from LeMoyne-Owen College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood; continuing her education, she received a Master of Education degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a lady of vast expertise, Mrs. Payne is also a graduate of the Memphis Education Association Leadership Academy, the Tennessee Instructional Model Administrator Training Program, the Tennessee Academy for School Leaders, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals Assessor Program; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Payne has also acted as an Administrator for National Teachers Examinations, an ACT Testing Administrator, Teacher Assistant, Classroom Teacher, Elementary Instructional Supervisor, and an Elementary Assistant Principal; she has also co-authored an article entitled "Attitudes of Parents and Teachers Towards Improving Academic

Achievement in Inner City Schools” that has been presented at several prestigious conventions; and

WHEREAS, during her distinguished career, she has lent her expertise and skills to numerous educational boards and programs, professional associations, and civic committees, including the Advisory Board for the District Superintendent, Tennessee Instructor Model for the Memphis City Schools, the Focused Instructional Program, the New Teachers Mentoring Program, the Memphis Education Association, the Tennessee Education and Curriculum and Development Association, the National Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Phi Delta Kappa – Memphis State Alumnae Chapter, the Memphis Principal’s Association, the Advisory Committee for Positive Public Relations Campaign, the Memphis Alliance for Black School Educators, the National Alliance for Black School Educators, Women in Education, the International Reading Association, the *Readers Digest* DeWitt Wallace Pathways to Teaching Advisory Board, and the University of Memphis Student Trainees Program; and

WHEREAS, the list of achievements by Ruby Jackson Payne is voluminous, and her hard work and dedicated service serve as an inspiration to her colleagues, peers, and students alike; and

WHEREAS, she has also donated her singular skills to several community organizations, serving as president of Mid-South Kwanzaa, Inc., a lifetime member of the NAACP, member of the Memphis Public Library Board of Trustees, member of the Memphis Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, member and past president of the Whitehaven Community Center Booster Club, co-chairman of Memphians for Positive Community Action, member of the Mayor’s Black on Black Crime Task Force, chairman of Boy Scouts Night, member of the Chickasaw Boy Scouts Council South Central District, member of the Boy Scouts Advisory Council, executive board member of Memphis Kwanzaa International, vice president of the Black Alliance for Social Equity, chair of the 1993 Martin Luther King Solidarity Day Banquet, member of the Memphis Barrister’s Wives Local Chapter, member of the Delta

Sigma Theta Mental Health Committee, and member of the Orange Mound Community Foundation; and

WHEREAS, her political career is as impressive as her educational career, and Mrs. Payne has played an important and active role in several political campaigns, including those of Mayor W. W. Herenton, Vice President Al Gore, Congressman Harold Ford, and State Representative G.A. Hardaway, Sr., and she honorably performed at Governor Ned McWherter's inaugural religious service; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Payne epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional and has been recognized with numerous awards of distinction; she was the recipient of the Unity Christian Church Living Legend Award, the Brownsville Road Elementary Appreciation Award for Instructional Supervisor, the Memphis Education Association Principal of the Year Award, a Rotary Club Principal of the Year Award finalist, the Special Friend to Special Olympics Principal of the Year Award, the Outstanding Young Women of America Humanitarian Award, the Whitehaven Community Center Lifetime Booster Club Member Award, the Friend to the Park Commission Award, the Education and Outstanding Leadership in BASE Award, the U. S. Navy Saturday Scholars Program Appreciation Award, the Hats off to Educators Award, the Outstanding New Principal Award, the key to the city from Mayor Hackett and Senator Al Gore, and she has been listed in *Who's Who in Tennessee*; and

WHEREAS, she is an active and devoted member of Alpha Church, Congregation of the Temple of the Living God; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, Mrs. Payne is most appreciative of the love and companionship of her husband, Jack L. Payne, Sr., their son and daughter-in-law, Jack L. Payne, Jr., and wife Carmalita Payne, their daughter and son-in-law, Katrina L. Payne Lott and husband Timothy Lott, and their grandchildren, Iman Katera Payne and Timothy Eugene Lott II; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Ruby Jackson Payne has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues, peers, and students alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to Ruby Jackson Payne our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applaud her dedication to the students of Tennessee, and wish her every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.